Medical and Educational Facilities to Beedi Workers in Andhra Pradesh

1024. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical and educational facilities are being made available to beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of present schemes in this regard in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether similar facilities can be intended to tendu leaf collectors in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In Andhra Pradesh, 18 dispensaries have been set up under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund to provide basic health care and family welfare services to beedi workers. A list of other welfare schemes pertaining to health and education being operated for benefit of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) No Sir.

(d) Tendu leaf collection is a seasonal work which lasts for a few weeks only. Moreover, the working conditions and problems of tendu leaf collectors are quite different from those of beedi workers.

Statement

List of Health and Education Schemes for Beedi Workers in Andhra Pradesh

Health

1. Reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals.

2. Re-imbursement of actual cost of treatment to beedi workers suffering from Cancer.

3. Treatment of workers suffering from Mental Diseases and also grant of subsistance allowance and other benefits to such workers.

4. Grant of financial assitance to Beedi Workers (including Charkhata workers) for purchase of Spectacles.

5. Scheme for grant-in-aid to bodies/organisation providing indoor treatment to Beedi Workers suffering from Leprosy and also grant to subsistance allowance to the eligible workers.

6. Financial assistance for Domiciliary Treatment for T.B. patients.

7. Financial assistance under Maternity Benefits Scheme for Female Beedi Workers.

8. Scheme for payment of extra monetory compensation for Sterlisation to Beedi Workers.

9. Scheme for re-imbursement of expenditure as a financial assistance to Beedi Workers suffering from Heart diseases.

10. Scheme for re-embursement of expenditure as a financial assistance to Beedi Workers for Kidney Transplantation etc.

11. Group Insurances Scheme for Beedi Workers under Social Security.

Education

1. Award of Scholarship to the Children of Beedi Workers (including Charkhata Beedi Workers).

2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of Beedi Workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.

3. Payment of Incentives on passing final University/Board examinations from High School onwards.

4. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re. 1/- to female children of Beedi Workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

Issue of Show Cause Notices to IOC

1025. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central) at Calcutta-III issued six

show cause notices to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. directing payment of wages not paid for last 20 months to contract labourers and to prosecute Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. for acting illegally;

(b) if so, whether the Secretary by Fax message dated 12th April, 1997 confirmed to Joint Council of Workers Federation and Indian Oil Employees Union Calcutta, as matter being grave and directed action by Chief Labour Commissioner (Central); and

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking any action, including prosecution in the matter and non-payment of wages to workers so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Calcutta issued five letters to the management of M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Marketing Division) to make payment to the Contract Labourers in terms of Section 21(4) of the Contract Labour (R&A) Act, 1970.

(b) The Union Labour Secretary vide his letter dated 12th April, 1997 informed the President of Indian Oil Employees' Union that he had asked Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) to look into the problem of non-settlement of wages of contract employees at Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

(c) The officials of the Central Government Industrial Relation Machinery (CIRM) intervened in the matter and contractor was asked to make payment to workers as per the wages notified by the Central Government for the concerned period. However, the workers refused to take the payment on the plea that they should be paid wages as per the bipartite settlement arrived at with the contractor M/s. S.N. Building Works for providing wages at the rate of Rs. 110/- and Rs. 140/- per day for the Semi-skilled and Skilled category of workers respectively. The Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Calcutta intervened again and asked the contractor to make the payment as per the said bipartite settlement. But the workers again refused to take the payment on the plea that they should paid wages for overtime as well. But as the matter of overtime payment was a dispute between the Contractor and the Mangement of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., the officials of CIRM could not insist the contractor to make payment for overtime. Meanwhile the Workers' Union has filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta seeking payment of wages, overtime wages, regularisation of services etc. for the contract labourers working in the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Marketing Division) Calcutta. The contractor also filed a petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta seeking recovery the due for overtime wages from the principal employer i.e. M/s Indian oil Corporation Ltd. The Hon'ble High Court disallowed the petition and directed that the matter be settled between the two parties under the Arbitration Act.

Child workers in the Country

1026. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the highest number of underage child workers numbering 60—110 million, as reported in the Times of India dated 2nd November, 1997;

(b) whether any workshop was organised by SACCS (South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude) in New Delhi on Ist November, 1997 on "Primary Education and Child Labour";

(c) if so, what recommendations were made by SACCS and what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) what concrete steps Government have taken so far for elimination of child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) As reported by the World Labour Report,